



ROLLING HILLS RANCH OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q: Why are the trailheads to Mt. San Miguel being closed?
- A: **The sites at Coastal Hills Drive and Iron Gate Lane are actually utility easements, not trailheads. Hikers created unauthorized paths from those sites through Chula Vista's open space preserve to access Mt. San Miguel.**
- Q: Is there a trailhead in the area that people can use to climb Mt. San Miguel?
- A: **No, there is not. Mt. San Miguel is part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's San Diego National Wildlife Refuge. Climbing Mt. San Miguel is illegal.**
- Q: If the "Mt. San Miguel Trail" is illegal, then why is it listed on several web sites and social media sites as a legitimate place to hike?
- A: **Google and other media sites have posted misinformation about this site. The City of Chula Vista has notified Google and is seeking their cooperation in deleting the inaccurate information.**
- Q: Since hikers have been using the unauthorized trail for several years, why are they suddenly being told they can no longer use it?
- A: **Despite past enforcement efforts, hikers have ignored the existing "No Trespassing" signs that were posted several years ago. Recent inspection of the area indicates that foot traffic has increased dramatically, causing damage to the property.**
- Q: Why are these areas not accessible for hiking?
- A: **The Rolling Hills Ranch Open Space Preserve is a key component of the City's 9,300 acre Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Subarea Plan Preserve. Mt. San Miguel is on conserved lands within the adjacent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, which was established in 1996. These lands include several federally listed endangered and threatened species and state listed endangered species that need to be protected.**
- Q: What is the penalty for trespassing?
- A: **Trespassing can lead to penalties of up to six (6) months in county jail and/or a fine of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per person.**
- Q: Where can I hike in Chula Vista?
- A: **Authorized hiking and biking trails are accessible throughout the city of Chula Vista, including trails along the Otay Lakes, Olympic Training Center, Mountain Hawk Park, and Mount San Miguel Park. Also nearby are trails on County lands, including Otay Lakes County Park, Otay Valley Regional Park, and Sweetwater Regional Park. For more information, please go to www.chulavistaca.gov, www.fws.gov/refuge/san_diego, or www.sdparks.org.**